

Command

#12



Effective immediately my address is:

16 So. Wilber St.
Belleville, N.J. 07109
(201) 759-2877

A word about phone calls; prior to moving here many of my phone calls were handled by non-wargamers when I was not at home. Consequently, some messages were fairly garbled and others were days late when (if) I received them. This situation no longer exists. If you call me and I am not home, my wife will understand your moves and messages and I will be sure to receive them intact.

The Nuclear Destruction games are running fairly smoothly and people really seem to be enjoying them. Bob Beardsly has offered to guest GM another section of it and I think I'm going to take him up on it. Gamefee will be \$1.00 plus postage and rules are available for 25¢ from Flying Buffalo, P.O. Box 1467, Scottsdale, AZ 85252.

You'll notice that I have changed the format for reporting Diplomacy moves. This is an attempt to squeeze a little more room out of these pages for press and articles. Press has been quite abundant lately and unfortunately I've had to postpone printing some of the longer pieces in order to squeeze in items of more general interest. I hope readability won't suffer too much. It becomes doubly important now for you to closely check the moves in your game and question anything that does not appear to be right. Also, it would aid me tremendously if you would submit your orders on one side of a page, labeled as to date, game date and either IDAEC or Boardman number.

Also, if you are submitting a stand-by move, please label it as such.

Finally, if you've written me in the past three weeks or so don't despair; I'll answer your letter within the next week.

LETTERS:

Dear Dennis,

I'm writing in response to your comments in Command #10, about the IDAEC and my zine the Tetracuspide.

First of all let me explain the IDAEC to you. It does evaluate zines using a standard that Big Brother may or may not have passed. If it would have passed using the current standards then maybe they should be changed, but the way to change them is to write to the IDAEC and not to write sweeping editorials about it.

Of the four zines you mentioned only two, yours and Impassable would be rated acceptable. Erewhon hasn't come out in months and admittedly the Tetracuspide is more than three days late on the average.

The IDAEC was formed by an act of the IDA. It consists of a group of people, one for each of several regions who do the evaluations and one to head it all. Their qualifications are that they care enough to do something for this hobby. The list is compiled for anyone interested.

If you're really interested in the IDAEC you should write to the head of the IDAEC, Roger Oliver, PO Box 452, Denville, NJ 07834, for more information.

As to the Tetracuspide, I do not consider myself to be in the same league as people like John Royer. I

...well organized... for 8
 ...time to write...
 ...work between...
 ...thirty hours a week, am room assign-
 ...chairman for my class, carry a
 ...load of classes, and do have
 ...some social life even if its just
 ...passing the ball with friends. I
 ...could probably publish articles if
 ...people would send them to me. Fin-
 ...ally based on one month between
 ...issues, the Tetracuspid has been
 ...late only three times in over one
 ...year of publication.

Yours in Nippy,
 Richard Kovalcik, Jr.

The following is part of an editori-
 al that appeared in Saint George
 and the Dragon, issue #9, Oct. 10,
 1976. IOAEC is written and published
 by Robert Bergeant, 3242 Lupine Dr.,
 Indianapolis, IN 46224

Then there is the IOAEC. This
 organization irritates me almost
 more than I can say. This group pur-
 ports to review zines that have
 requested such review and rates
 them on acceptability of GM and
 style. They do NOT tell you which
 zines are unacceptable. They list
 only those zines which are and by
 implication the rest are not. There
 is no way of distinguishing between
 an acceptable zine which has not
 requested evaluation and an unac-
 ceptable one. The idea seems to be
 that authors will come to ask for
 evaluation, just to avoid the im-
 pression that they are unacceptable.
 This seems to smack of coercion to
 me. I have not requested rating of
 this zine, and I do not intend to
 do so. And the worst sin I have
 committed is rating as accep-
 table a zine which has not published
 an issue since late June. I don't
 find this acceptable and it leads me
 to question the judgement of the
IOAEC on those zines with which I
 am not familiar."

 END PAGE

5 GR: Diplomacy sets, mint con-
 dition. For more information write:
 Jack Powers
 611 Cleveland Ave
 Hamilton, Ohio 45023

Some notes on not

Underlined moves: ...
 unit must retreat ...
 board; any retreating unit may re-
 treat CIB instead of to the provinces
 listed; NMR = no moves received.

1975-1976 COM Fall 1906

England (Kinsfather) F Irish - Mid. Ales
 F Eng S A Wales - Bel; A Wales - Bel
 F No Sea S A Wales - Bel; A Kiel - Ruhr
 F Belg S A Hol; A Hol S A Wales - Bel
 F Bel - Liv; A Ber S A TA A Sil - Mun
 F St-P. (NO) E.

France (Granville) A Pic - Bre; A Mar R
 F Midx S A Pic - Bre; F Wes S F Midx
 A Bel - Hol* (Pic, Bur) A Ruhr S
 A Bel - Hol; A Mun - Kiel* (Bon, Bur)

Italy (Matias) A Sil - XXX Munich;
 A Pied - Tyro; F Ven H; F Tun H;
 F Tyrr H.

Turkey (Happel) NMR A's Arm, Sev,
 Mos, Ukr, Gal, Bud & F's Akr, Ion,
 Aeg all hold.

Supply Center Chart:

ENG home, NOR, MOB, BEN, KTB, SFE, ST. P,
 BER, BEL (11) build 1
 FRA home, POR, SPA, ~~WV~~, ~~WV~~ (5) remove 2
 AUS ~~WV~~ (0) out
 ITA ROM, VIE, NAP, TRI, WAR, MUN, TUN, VEN
 (8) build 3 (room for 2)
 TUR home, BUL, SER, RUM, SEV, BUD, GRE, MOS
 (10) even

Winter 1906 due 12/3/76

PRESS

(Rome, UPI) The Italian armed forces,
 having received a shipment of Tur-
 kish opium as a gift from Smyrna,
 are running all over Europe trying
 to find a suitable place to raise
 their own fields. They have not as
 yet found such a place, but strong
 rumors have been spread that the
 German climate is ideal.

(Paris) "That barbaric tribe known
 as France" regrets the imminent de-
 mise of the sovereign state of
 England due to her questionable
 tactics of attacking their regal
 Empire

1976-1980 COMS 1981-1984

England is now being played by:
Ron Kelly
225 Virginia Ave. NE
Washington, D.C. 20061

England (Kelly) F St. P(NU) H* (Nor.
War); F No Sea S F Bel; F Irish S
F Mid Atl; F Eng S F No Sea;
A Par H; F Mid H; F Bel H.

France (Young) F Por S ITA F
Spain- Mid Atlantic.

Germany (Blank) F Den- North Sea;
A Bur- Bel; A Mun- Ruhr; A War H;
A Prus- Ber; A Sil- Mun; A Livonia
S RUSS A Mos- St. P..

Italy (Spiegel) F Spa(SC) S F WMed-
A Matl; F Tyrr- Lyon; F WMed- Matl;
F Apu- lon; A Mar- Bur; A Ven- Tyro.

Austria (Barsan) F EMed- Aeg;
A Boh- Sil; A Vien- Tyro; A Galacia
S A Rum; A Rum S A Bul; A Bul S
A Rum; A Gre S A Bul

Russia (Loomis) A Ukr S TUR A Sev-
Rum; A Mos- St. P..

Turkey (Bumpas) F Con S F Aeg- Bul(
SC); F Sey- EMed, F Aeg- Bul(SC);
A Sev- Rum.

Supply Center Chart:

ENG home, NOR, BEL, BRE, ~~PAR~~, PAR
(7) even

FRA POR (1) even

GER home, HOL, DEN, SWE, ~~WAR~~, WAR
(7) even

ITA home, TUN, SPA, MAR (6) even

AUS home, SER, GRE, BUL, RUM (7) even

NGS MOS, ~~WAR~~, StP ~~WAR~~ (2) even

TUR home, SEV (4) even

Winter 1904 due 12/3/76

1976P COM4 Winter 1903

ITALY build A Rome

FRANCE " F Brest

RUSSIA " F St. P.(SC)

" A Warsaw

PRESS

(Rome; and may there be many more
to come.

(Yorcon) The English Foreign
office has so far failed to clear the
obscure of the French general in
charge of the army in Belgium. The
Foreign Minister has demanded his
immediate trial for treason to the
French govt. This general gave
open support to a German army in
Holland. This was counter to all
British and French agreements to
stop the German hordes. The world
awaits the French support of the
English into Holland.

Spring 1904 due 12/3/76

1976S COM5 Spring 1904

England (Luchs) A Wal- Lon; F Edi-
North Sea.

France (Anderson) A Mar- Bur*(Gas);
A Spa- Mar; A Pic S A Mar- Bur;
F Engx S A Riv- Wal; A Liverpool- Wal;
F Irish- Mid Atlantic.

Germany (Johnston) A Mun- Bur;
A Hol- Bel; F Bel- No Sea; A Ruhr S
A Mun- Bur; F No Sea- Skagg; F Riel-
Denmark.

Italy (Kerins) A Pied- Mar; F Tyon-
S A Pie- Mar; F WMed- Spa(SC);
F Tyrr- Tun; A Vien S TUR A Gal;
A Tri- Vien; A Gre- Ser.

Russia (Mitchell) A Sev H* (OTB);
U Ukr S A War; A Mos S A Sev;
F Swe H; A War S A Ukr.

Turkey (Young) A Rum- Sev; F Bla Sea
S A Rum- Sev; F Arm S A Rum- Sev;
A Gal- Ukr; A Bud- Rum; A Con- Bul;
A Sil- War.

Fall 1904 due: 12/3/76

PRESS

(Rome) The French city of Marseilles
has fallen. The assault of German-
Italian armies on the French soil
will be successful. The drive of
these 2 great people needs only a
few more seasons to come to comp-
letion. Let all keep the faith.

$\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} \right)^2 = \frac{1}{8}$

NDA PRESS

(London) Anyone interested in ~~man~~ purchasing some slightly radioactive real estate, please contact Her Majesty's government. There is still no, repeat, no plan to devalue the pound at this time.

(Frozen Bay, Alaska) Nov. 2, 1976. Today President Ford drew a large "X" (in crayon) on House Bill No. 36-24-36, signing it into law. Also today, Jimmy Carter got drunk on Peanut wine and gave Plains, Ga. a day it will soon want to forget. These actions marked the end of the 1976 Presidential election campaign. It is now a certainty that neither man will be elected. The final tallies ~~will~~ are not yet in, but it seems that for the next four years our government will be run by a coalition consisting of: Donald Duck, famous cartoon character; Rachel Welch, famous female character; and Dennis Agosta, an unknown from New Jersey with no character at all.

(Geneva) In a surprise move today, England did not devalue the pound. Instead, every other nation raised the value of their currency.

(Lisbon) Due to the poor condition of the local economy, the president made a plea for more foreign investment.

(Paris) It has come to this reporter's attention that Mad magazine is widely read throughout the world by both kings and presidents, priests and paupers, journalists and seackpots. Why so many?

(South Pole) The government of the South Pole wishes to point out that the report released by the Syrian government last month is faulty. We have reason to believe that Santa Claus is alive and well in Argentina.

(North Pole) In response to the declaration of war by the South Pole the North Pole is mobilizing its elfen army. Production of Christmas toys has been halted, and all factories are converting to tank and fighter bomber construction.

NDA PRESS

(Montreal) After months of civil war, Canada has emerged out of nowhere to become a major power. The Canadian gov't announced first off that it wished to become an ally of Russia if feasible, and any other country that wished an alliance (Gifts such as missiles, cash or factories can help considerably).

(?) "Life liveth best in life, and doth not roam
To other realms if all be well at home.
'Solid as ocean foam,' quoth ocean foam."

(Zurich) The Inter-European Society of Mushroom Fanciers announced that their annual convention will be held in Zurich this year. Although a large turnout is not expected, Ireland and Portugal have promised lavish displays.

(Washington, D.C.) The President announced today that recently learned the War in Vietnam is over. He indicated that the U.S., who have already formed a peace pact with several allies, has vowed to keep world peace at any price, even if it means war. When asked how long the world peace would last, the President replied, "At least ~~for~~ for several generations; maybe even 6 or 7 years."

(Beirut) The war torn state of Lebanon was relieved to hear that foreign aid was soon to be received due to the numerous incidents of superpower intervention into the affairs of the Third World.

(Lisbon) Massive riots broke out sporadically throughout Portugal when it was announced that Portugal's destiny was to be controlled by a select group of nations

(Newark) The United Nations of the Select met today to begin plans that would totally disregard the interests of the United Nations of the Minority (Majority). Secretary-General Dagobert refused to intervene against the Select claiming, "I'm only a moderator. Don't shoot at me."

United Nations Press will
 announce the formation of the
 International Alliance of Spanish
 Speaking Peoples (IASSP). Member-
 ship includes Spain, Mexico, Cuba,
 Uruguay, Panama, Argentina, and
 Guatemala. All other governments
 are hereby warned to keep their
 grubby paws to themselves.

(Sydney) This really wasn't my
 fault. I really didn't want a war!
 Ask anyone. They'll tell you.
 Australia's always been a pacifist
 country. It was the gannaster. He
 forced me into it. Somebody out
 there help me! Please! He's holding
 my wife and kids hostage! Anyone!
 HELP!

(Madrid) The Premier is pleased to
 announce the formation of the
 International Alliance of Spanish
 Speaking Peoples (IASSP). Member-
 ship includes Spain, Mexico, Cuba,
 Uruguay, Panama, Argentina, and
 Guatemala. All other governments
 are hereby warned to keep their
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 HELP!

1976BT COM 12 Spring 1903

England(Matias) F St. P(SC) Bar;
 A Bal. Nor(C by F No Sea); A Swe-
 Fin; A Lon- Pic; F Eng C A Lon- Pic.

France(Acheson) A Mar H; A Bre H;
 A Bur S A Mar; F WMed- Lyon;
 F Mat- Spain(SC).

Germany(Blanch) F Hol S F Bel;
 F Bel S F Hol; A Mun- Tyro; A Sil-
 Bony; A War- Gall; A Ber- Sil;
 A Den- Kiel.

Italy(Grebar) A Pied- Ven; F Tun S
 F Tyrr- Ion; F Tyrr- Ion;
 F Lyon- Tyrr

Austria(Cook) A Gal- Bud; A Tri S
 A Gal- Bud; A Ser S RUSS A Rum;
 F Ser- Gal(SC)* (Albania)

1976BT COM 12 Spring 1903

1976BT COM 12 Spring 1903

1976BT COM 12 Spring 1903

PRESS
 (London) Lord Rex of the House of
 Dan announced today his determination
 to totally destroy the infidel who
 sits on the Ivory Throne of Moscow,
 just as his assassins eliminated
 the previous seat warmer.

(Rome) To insure peace with France
 and Austria, I find it necessary
 to neutralize my position. I'm
 attacking no one. Germany and England
 must be stopped! I call for a united
 effort to do so.

(Paris-Rome) re your last press
 release, how can one divide 5 by
 3 and come up even?
 1976DD COM13 Fall 1902

England(Lebens) F Norweg- Norway;
 A Wal- Bre (C by F Eng; F Bre- Matl;
 F Irish S F Bre- Matl.

France(Pabry) A Par- Pic; A Bur- Mac;
 A Spa S A Bur- Mar; F Por- Matl. (Gos)

Germany(DeCook) A Bel S A Ruhr- Bur;
 A Ruhr- Bur; A Mun S A Ruhr- Bur;
 F Swe- Den; A Berlin H.

Italy(Luchs) A Pied- Mar; A Ven- Tri;
 F WMed- Spain(SC); F Tyrr- Ion.

Austria(C.D.) A Tri H*(OTB);
 A SerH*(OTB); F Gre H.

Russia(Johnston) A Vien S ITA A Ven-
 Tri; A Rum- Ser; A Bud S A Rum- Ser;
 F Both- Swe; F Balx S F Both- Swe;
 A Sil- Mun; F Bla Sea- Sev.

Turkey(Silko) NMR A's BUL, SMY H;
 F's ARG, CON H.

Supply Center Chart:
 ENC home, NOR, BRE (5) even
 FRA PAR, MAR, FOR, SPA (4) even
 GPR home, HOL, DEN, BEL (6) build 1
 ITA home, TUN, TRI (5) build 1
 AUS TYR, BUL, GRE (1) even
 RUS home, SER, ROM, VIE, HUN, POL (9) build 2

TUR home, BUL (4) even

Winter 1902 due 12/3/76

1976DP COM16 Spring 1902

England(Johnston) F Nor- St.P(NC);
F No Sea- Norway; A Wal- York;
F Lon- Eng Ch.

France(Cook) A Spa H; A War- Bur;
F Pic- Eng; F Bre S F Pic- Eng.

Germany(A Trembley) A Den H;
F Hol- No Sea; A Bel H; A Kiel- Ruhr;
A Mun- Tyrr; A Ber- Sil.

Italy(Vie Brooks) A Ven- Tyrr; A Tri
S RUSS A Vie- Bud; A Tyrr- Vie;
F Ion S TUR A Bul- Gre.

Austria(Luchs) A Bud- Gal*(OTB)
A Rum S TUR A Arm- Sev; F Gre S
TUR F Smy- Aeg.

Russia(Marcell) A Vie- Bud; SF Swe H;
A Mos S F Sev; A Ukr S F Sev;
A War- Gal; F Sev H.

Turkey(Fabry) F Smy-Aeg; A Bul- Ser;
A Arm- Sev; F Bla Sea S A Arm- Sev.

Fall 1902 due 12/3/76

(Rome) Reports continue to trickle back to Rome of a fierce pitched battle between the Legions of Rome and the Gypsies being fought on the outskirts of Budapest. Rumour has it that our troops were reinforced by Volunteers of a Cossack regiment on leave in Vienna, but no details are at this moment available as to the outcome of what appears to be the most savage encounter of the year long war.

(Rome) Fashion observers attending the Inter-European Spring Fashion Review held in Zurich report that the Zigeuner Look is going to be all the rage this year in the Spring. The Zigeuner Look features polka-dot shirts, high boots, a large bandanna over the hair, and a single gold earring. Leading fashion-plate of Germany, The King of Bavaria is the supposed author of the look, and is well known to be the first aristocrat in all of Europe to have his ear pierced.

(Rome) Pontifex Maximus Salisano I has banned the Zigeuner Look from Rome, calling it "A tool of the Devil, and especially of the Gypsies." The Pontifex suggests that Roman women wear the same old togas one more year, as an economy measure in these economically troubled times. First Consul Pompous reportedly stated upon hearing of the Pontifical Ban, "I am greatly relieved. Now maybe I can balance the budget."

(Bologna) Doctors working at the Academy of Unnatural Sciences have released the startling news that a direct relationship exists between having one's ear pierced and the Gypsy madness. It is generally believed that the King of Austria had his ear pierced just before falling prey to Gypsy sorcery, and we all know what happened to him. Hopefully, this warning will not be too late for the rest of Europe and Asia.

(Berlin) The German Government demands the immediate de-militarization of Tyrolia. The continuation of the provocative adventurist policies of Italy can only have the gravest of consequences!

(Budapest) Today the King was elected unanimously to a second term as dictator of Austria. He cast the only vote for himself. After an inspiring inaugural address, in which he urged every Austrian to fight to the death against the invaders, the King fled to Switzerland, taking the entire gold reserve with him.

(Budapest) Faced with certain destruction, I could have either sat and been taken over by Russia and Italy, or I could have done something useful with my supply centers while I had the power. I have chosen to give as many of my supply centers as possible to Turkey. I did this for several reasons. First of all, I did not want Italy in particular to grab any more of my fine Austrian land; I wasn't too thrilled about giving it to Russia either. That left Turkey, who deserves it anyway for being a good ally. Russia won't last long, and then my

1976DZ COM18 Fall 1901

(Budapest to London) In reply to the English cry of "Hang in there", the Austrian King has purchased six feet of nylon rope.

1976DZ COM18 Fall 1901

England(Sargh) A Yor. Dec (S by F No Sea); F Reg. Brg.

France(Me Ilvalne) NMR+ F NATL-
Ese: A Pic- Bel: A Spa- Por.
standby moves: E. Agosta

Germany(Farrell) A Ruhr- Bel;
F Hol S A Ruhr- Bel: A Mun H.

Italy(Gale) A Ven H; NMR+
A Roma H; F Ion- Tur. (S)
standby moves: R. Marcell

Austria(Acheson) F Alb- Gre;
A Ser S F Alb- Gre: A Tri- Ven.

Russia(Edmonds) F Both Sws;
A St. P- Fin; F Sev- Rum; A Ukr S
F Sev- Rum.

Turkey(Vaise) A Bul- Ser;
F Alb- Bla Sea; A Con- Sev.

Supply Center Chart:
ENG home, DEN (4) build 1
FPA home, POR (4) build 1
GER home, BEL, POL (5) build 2
ITA home, TUR (4) build 1
AUS home, SER, GRE (5) build 2
RUS home, SWE, ROM (6) build 2
TUR home, BUL (4) build 1

Winter 1901 due 12/3/76

PEESB

(Fredericberg, Silesia) It was discovered this week why no foreign correspondence has entered Germany. An eccentric millionaire has entered Germany and has bribed all German postal workers into delivering foreign letters to his house. The suspect was apprehended when he tried to sell the stamps that had not been postmarked.

(Berlin) The Kaiser just passed out.

(London-Paris) Now's not the time to

only for a single week.

(London-Paris) I am, I am, I am, his bread, much longer, his whole country will turn blue. Royal Navy Blue.

(Budapest-Berlin) I received a letter from a Kaiser of a country called Germany. However, he didn't sign his name so I want to be sure as to his true identity.

(Budapest-Moscow) Your word was never in doubt; I look forward to a long and prosperous alliance.

1976EK COM19
Spring 1901 due 12/3/76

1976EL COM20
Spring 1901 due 12/3/76
Wooden Ships 1 COM15

Turn 3a (ship/ID/move/final hex/dir)
+ indicates full sails up

Royal Oak and Prudent attempt to unfoul = unsuccessful.

British (Hans/Kingsfather)
America/1201/2201/X14/4+
Befford/1202/L2R1/V13/4+
Adament/1203/5/R15/4+
London/1101/2L2/R12/3+
Royal Oak/1204/0/M7/3+
Prudent/1205/0/M7/3+
Europe/1206/R1/A K7/4+
Robust/1207/R1/I6/4+

French (Beardsley/Luchs)
Neptune/2201/L2R1/L19/6+
Duc de B/2101/R2/JJ18/6+
Conquerant/2202/L2R1/HR17/6+
Provence/2203/L2R1/FF16/6+
Ardent/2204/R1R/H15/6
Jason/2205/R1R/GG14/6
Eveille/2206/R1R/EE13/6
Romulus/2207/R1R/GG12/6

Turn 3b (combat, full sail adj) and
4a (movement, unfouling) due 12/3/76

GAME OPENINGS
Origins/Bourse 4/1 entered
Nuclear Destruction 0 entered
Diplomacy 4 entered
Wooden Ships & Iron Men 3 entered

Turn 1a (ship/ID/move/Final Hex/Dir)

* Indicates full sails

* Indicates full move not completed

British (Brooks/Zeimian)

America/1201/R1*/U11/4

Befford/1202/1R*/T10/3

Adament/1203/1R*/R9/3

London/1101/1R*/P8/3

Royal Oak/1204/1/N7/3

Prudent/1205/1/L6/3

Europe/1206/1/J5/3

Robust/1207/1/H4/3

French ((Heinowski/Vie Brooks)

Neptune/2201/L/QQ18/2

Duc de/2101/L/C017/2

Conquerant/2202/L/MM16/2

Provence/2203/L/MMKK15/2

Ardent/2204/L/II14/2

Jason/2205/L/GG13/2

Eveille/2206/L/EE12/2

Romulus/2207/R/CC11/4

Turn 1b (combat, full sail adj)

and 2a (movement) due 12/3/76

note: we are playing basic rules plus full sails and ammunition types; all ships are loaded with roundshot and start with battle sails up.

GAME REVIEW TOBRUK (AH)

by Bob Zeardsley

Tobruk is a simulation of individual tank/squad combat during the battle of Gazala, 1942. Why it isn't called Gazala is somewhat of a mystery to this writer because most of the scenarios feature that battle rather than Tobruk.

Tobruk is a combination board game/miniatures contest that has previously received mixed to bad mixed reviews since its publication in 1975. Even Avalon Hill's publicity and advertisements have been "low profile" on the game, as if the game is something of an embarrassment to the company. I can't understand why. It's a fine game chock full of good ideas.

The good ideas start with the conversion of the board game to a miniatures, and vice versa. Now, we board gamers can find out why miniatures gaming has become more and more popular every year.

Imagine the thrill you get when you hammer your 15 Italian Semvente tanks against 3 lonely British Grant tanks in for the kill. Imagine the further thrill you'll get as you watch your Italian armor piercing shells bounce off the Grant's hulls all day long, as the Grant's 75 mm and 37 mm guns make garbage cans of your tanks.

There's more to the game than tank duels, although those are great fun in themselves. You have anti-tank guns, mortars, squads of infantry, mines, hedgehogs, anti-tank traps, dummy gun emplacements, etc., etc. Weapons are rated against each possible target (different CRT for each case!) and you'll soon discover each strength and weakness of every weapons system on the board.

You'll also learn about the different rates-of-fire of each weapon, about acquired sights and initial sights, about the importance of hit locations and other goodies. Sound complicated? That is one of the criticisms of the game, but I don't find that to be the case.

Tobruk's rules are written in a programmed instruction format. In other words, you read two pages and play a mini scenario! The first scenario is a full-blown (pardon the pun) tank battle. Then you read two pages more and play an infantry scenario. After you play the first nine scenarios you've learned all the rules. Written clearly and precisely, it's almost fun to learn the game. It's incredibly more simple than learning AH's Third Reich, and not much more difficult than Panzerblitz. By the way, Tobruk is nothing like Panzerblitz and the famous Panzerbush technique.. Although movement is sequential, fire is done after movement one tank at a time. Alternating sides. In other words, you fire one of yours, then I fire one of mine.

Another criticism of Tobruk is that the playing board is featureless. True enough, but I feel that isn't detrimental to the game. You can change the nature of the board with mines, hedgehogs, fortified positions if that is what you want. If you're looking for mountains, forests and rivers forget it.

I further criticized to Len about all dice rolls involved in combat resolution. There are plenty involved, but basically it only takes two rolls for each time you fire a shot. On the first roll you determine if you've hit your target; on the second roll you find out where you've hit it. The second roll isn't necessary if you've missed the first roll. Generally speaking, each tank can fire two shots per turn with their initial fire. So, if you don't mind rolling dice, you won't have any complaint on this count.

The last criticism dealt with here is the excitement level of the game. Some say there isn't much, but I disagree again. In a recent multi-player contest (yes, you can play very effectively, with more than two people) involving this writer, your Command pubber, Dennis "the butcher" Agosta, and Rich "let's go for the lucky hit" Marcell, many buzzahs and cheers (and assorted noises) were heard everytime Rich and I scored a hit on Dennis. (Let it be recorded here that Dennis was extremely lucky in destroying 17 of our 21 tanks while only losing 4 of his 9. No wonder we cheered when we hit one of his!)

I highly recommend Tobruk to any gamers who enjoy tactical games like Wooden Block and Iron Men. I believe it is the best game to come out in 1975 (including Third Reich) and hope you'll find it to be as enjoyable.

Ed, note: If you already own Tobruk, check your British Hit Probability Table. If there is not a large black dot following the number 8104, your table has an error. Under the Pancer III H, a die roll of 12= R for Front, Flank, and Rear. Under (E) the R column, make the following additions: WGR R 6-10**K/C2= 10; S/C2(P3)=16**K/C2=5; S/C2(P3)=22**K/C2**K/C3**K/C3**K/C3.

1975ED ANALYSIS

This game is rapidly becoming a cult so far as a dice game goes; it can be particularly enjoyable in

play. Now is the time to stand by position. Charles Reinseal quit because he's Charles Reinseal. I replaced Ralph Ragan because he was missing turns as much as he was sending them in; it now appears that Len Lakofka has quit because I replaced Ragan (even though I told Len that Ralph wrote to me and asked to be replaced); it now appears that the problems that are preventing Charlie Spiegel from printing Stag, are also preventing him from playing postal Diplomacy. That's the situation going into Winter 1904.

Anyway, here are my thoughts on the tactics of the first few turns. I hope that the many novices who read these pages will get something worthwhile out of it. Reader response is strongly requested.

The players:

<u>England</u>	Len Lakofka
<u>France</u>	Bill Young
<u>Germany</u>	Walter Blank
<u>Italy</u>	Ralph Ragan
<u>Austria</u>	Edi Birsan
<u>Russia</u>	Rick Loomis
<u>Turkey</u>	Charles Reinseal

Spring 1901

ENG F Len-NoSea; F Edi-Norm; A Liv-Yor.
FRA F Bre-Mat; A Par-Pic; A Mar-Bur.
GER F Kiel-Den; A Ber-Kiel; A Mun-Bug.
ITA A Von-Pie; A Rome H; F Nap-Tyrr.
AUS A Vie-Tri; F Tri-Alb; A Bud-Sar.
RUS F St.P.-Both; A Mos-St.P.;
 A War-Ukr; F Sev-Pla Sea.
TUR A Con-Dal; A Say-Arn; Tank-BSea.

Turkey opens with an immediate attack on Russia which is further strengthened by A Moscow's move north. Turkey's move would had taken on added strength had he been able to form an alliance with Austria, but as the game progressed it became obvious that Turkey was working alone. This is not surprising since Mr. Reinseal's style of diplomatic negotiation can best be described as "do what I say or else!" Had Russia moved A Mos-Ukr and A War-Gal, his chances for survival would have been greatly improved; this is not to say that A Mos-St.P is a bad move in general- it's not. It is a risky move that is severely deflated

Turkey moving a Sig. to London.

On the western front, Germany opens aggressively with F Kiel to Denmark; I would have preferred to move A Munich to Ruhr, but since France attempted to move to Burgundy these moves are just as strong. Italy's move to Piedmont (most likely at Edi Birsen's suggestion) is an early indication of France's problems to come. France cannot really expect to gain Belgium unless he allies with Germany. While England is usually in a position to support France into Belgium from the North Sea, Germany's A Munich to Ruhr can stop this most of the time.

Fall 1901

ENG F Norw-Nor; A Yor-Bel; F Nrth C A Yor-Bel.

FRA A Pic-Bur; A War S A Pic-Bur; F MATI-Spa(SU).

GER A Kiel-Hol; A Mun-Sil; F Dea-Swe. Swe.

ITA A Pic-Mari; A Rom-Ven; F Tyrr-Tun.

AUS F Alb-Ion; A Tri-Ser; A Ser-Gre

RUS A Ukr-Rum; F Sev S A Ukr-Rum; F Both-Ser; A St-P-Pin.

TUR A Bul-Rum; A Arm-Sev; F Ank-Dia

Turkey's moves are obvious and quite devastating to the Russian. At this point Russia is quite out of it. Austria takes good advantage by making an excellent move F Alb-Ion, getting the most out of his pieces. At this early stage, Austria is in the swing position usually occupied by Italy; Russia is weak, Turkey is committed to fighting Russia, and Italy is attacking France who is weaker than usual.

Germany's move east indicates he isn't worried about England, a point which France doesn't appear to notice. France's game is now totally dependant upon England, a dangerous situation.

Winter 1901

ENG F Lon; F Edi

FRA F Bre

GER A Ber; A Mun

ITA F Nap

AUS A Bud; A Tri

TUR F Con

Germany's A Munich to Silesia forces Austria to build a Trieste rather than F Trieste which would have given him more options.

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